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THE POST-DISPATCH PLATFORM

I KNOW THAT MY RETIREMENT WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE IN ITS CARDINAL PRINCIPLES. THAT IT WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR PROGRESS AND REFORM, NEVER TOLERATE INJUSTICE OR CORRUPTION, ALWAYS FIGHT DEMAGOGUES OF ALL PARTIES, NEVER BELONG TO ANY PARTY, ALWAYS OPPOSE PRIVILEGED CLASSES AND PUBLIC PLUNDERERS, NEVER LACK SYMPATHY WITH THE POOR, ALWAYS REMAIN DEVOTED TO THE PUBLIC WELFARE, NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH MERELY PRINTING NEWS, ALWAYS BE DRASTICALLY INDEPENDENT, NEVER BE AFRAID TO ATTACK WRONG, WHETHER BY PREDATORY ELITOCRACY OR PREDATORY POVERTY.

JOSEPH PULITZER

April 16, 1907

Tuesday, July 25, 1961

Letters from the People

Both Missiles and Planes

After reading your editorial, "Not for a Pavlov Reaction," may I make these comments?

About four years ago the people were told that national intelligence had much over-estimated Soviet bomber production. As a result, our national defense policies and programs were changed. We cut down plane production.

Much of the justification for these actions was the ground that Soviet Russia had "leap-frogged" long-range bombers into missiles. Mr. Khrushchev himself stated several times that manned aircraft were "outdated" and emphasized Russia was concentrating on missiles.

The recent Tushino air display showed Mr. Khrushchev did not mean what he said. It also showed we had been misled. As example, four missiles were flown at Tushino about which this country had no knowledge whatever.

At that time the Soviets flew a new supersonic bomber, in operational quantities, which had never been seen in the air before. It would appear to be the most modern bomber in the world, one which can only cause our current defenses grave concern.

This nation has no plans for aggression. All of us agree, however, that we must be prepared for any type of attack from a possible enemy. Therefore, we need a balanced defense.

With that premise, I believe we must stress missiles and planes instead of missiles or planes; especially in that it is now clear the Soviet Communists, who have a national income less than 40 per cent of our own, have stressed both.

Missiles would be used only if we responded to an attack with nuclear weapons. But manned aircraft could be used for conventional response as well as nuclear response. This would seem of very great importance, because no one could really win a nuclear war.

For these reasons I believe we should continue the development and production of certain combat aircraft.

Stuart Symington
United States Senator
from Missouri

Washington